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Urban and Rural Landscapes in Modern Ireland

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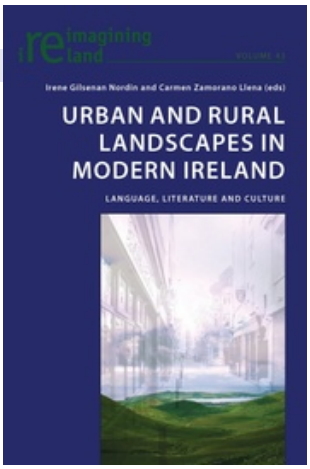

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Book synopsis

The central theme of landscape has long been associated with the construction and expression of Irish national identity, particularly in relation to rural Ireland, which traditionally has been regarded as an important source of national heritage and culture. Associated with this preoccupation is the rural/urban divide that has characterised traditional representations of Ireland, especially since the end of the nineteenth century. The twentieth century saw dramatic changes to both rural and urban Ireland. The Celtic Tiger economy and the post-Tiger context have also seen momentous transformations in the Irish landscape. This book analyses the relationship between the rural and the urban and explores the way it is reflected in Irish literature, culture and language from the turn of the twentieth century to the present day. Among others, the work of John Hewitt, Liam O'Flaherty, Moya Cannon, Paula Meehan, Thomas Kinsella and Eavan Boland is analysed, through a variety of perspectives including cultural studies, linguistics, literary studies and ecocriticism.

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Irene Gilsenan Nordin is Professor of English at Dalarna University, Sweden, and is originally from Co. Meath, Ireland. She is founder and Director of DUCIS (Dalarna University Centre for Irish Studies) and former president of the Nordic Irish Studies Network. She is co-founder and literary editor of *Nordic Irish Studies*.
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